

I returned to Ferozepore from the field of Sobraon, on the afternoon of the 10th, within a few hours after the action had ceased, to superintend the passage of the Sutlej by our troops.

I joined the camp of the Commander-in-Chief at Kussoor on the morning of the 14th.

On the arrival at Lahore of the news of the complete victory of Sobraon, the Ranees and Durbar urged Raja Golab Sing to proceed immediately to the British camp, to beg pardon in the name of the Durbar and the Sikh Government for the offence which had been committed, and to endeavour to negotiate some arrangement for the preservation of the country from utter ruin.

The Raja first stipulated that the Durbar and the chief officers of the army, as well as the members of the Panchayets, should sign a solemn declaration that they would abide by such terms as he might determine on with the British Government. This is said to have been immediately acceded to; and, on the 15th, Raja Golab Sing, Dewan Dena Nath, and Fakeer Nooroodeen arrived in my camp at Kussoor, with full credentials from the Maha Raja, and empowered to agree, in the name of the Maha Raja and the Government, to such terms as I might dictate. The Raja was accompanied by the Barukzie Chief, Sooltan Mahomed Khan, and several of the most influential Sirdars of the nation.

I received the Raja in Durbar as the representative of an offending Government, omitting the forms and ceremonies usually observed on the occasion of friendly meetings, and refusing to receive, at that time, the proffered Nuzzurs and complimentary offerings.

I briefly explained to the Raja and his colleagues that the offence which had been committed was most serious, and the conduct of the Chiefs and Army was most unwarrantable,—that this offence had been perpetrated without the shadow of any cause of quarrel on the part of the British Government, in the face of an existing Treaty of Amity and Friendship,—and that, as all Asia had witnessed the injurious conduct of the Sikh nation, retributive justice required that the proceedings of the British Government should be of a character which would mark to the whole world that insult could not be offered to the British Government, and our provinces invaded by a hostile army, without signal punishment.

I told the Raja that I recognized the wisdom, prudence, and good feeling evinced by him in having kept himself separate from these unjustifiable hostilities of the Sikhs, and that I was prepared to mark my sense of that conduct in the proceedings which must now be carried through. I stated, in the most marked manner and words, my satisfaction that he who had not participated in the offence, and whose wisdom and good feeling towards the British Government were well known, had been the person chosen by the Durbar as their representative for negotiating the means by which atonement might be made, and the terms on which the Sikh Government might be rescued from impending destruction, by a return to amicable relations between the British Government and the Lahore State.

I told the Raja and his colleagues that Mr. Currie, the Chief Secretary to Government, and Major Lawrence, my Agent, were in full possession of my determination on the subject; that they were in my entire confidence; and I referred the Chiefs to those Officers, that they might learn from them the principles and details of adjustment which I had determined to offer for their immediate acceptance.

The Chiefs remained the greater part of the night in conference with Mr. Currie and Major Lawrence; but, before they separated, a paper was signed by them to the effect that all that had been demanded would be conceded, and that arrangements would be immediately made, as far as were in the power of the Chiefs, to carry out all the details that had been explained to them.

The terms demanded and conceded are, the surrender, in full sovereignty, of the territory, hill and plain, lying between the Sutlej and Beas rivers, and the payment of one and a half crores of rupees as indemnity for the expenses of the war,—the disbandment of the present Sikh army, and its reorganization on the system and regulations with regard to pay which obtained in the time of the late Maharaja Runjeet Sing,—the arrangement for limiting the extent of the force to be henceforth employed, to be determined on in communication with the British Government,—the surrender to us of all the guns that had been pointed against us,—the entire regulation and control of both banks of the river Sutlej, and such other arrangements for settling the future boundaries of the Sikh State, and the organization of its administration, as might be determined on at Lahore.

It was further arranged that the Maha Raja, with Bhaee Ram Sing, and the other Chiefs remaining at Lahore, should forthwith repair to the camp of the Governor-General, and place themselves in the hands of the Governor-General, to accompany his camp to Lahore.

I had prepared, for circulation on my arrival at Kussoor, a Proclamation declaratory of my present views and intentions with regard to the Punjab,—a translation of which was given to Raja Golab Sing and his colleagues, and a copy of which is enclosed for your information.

It was determined that the Maha Raja should meet me at Lulleana on the 18th (yesterday), when the camp arrived at that place. On the afternoon of the 17th, it was announced to me, that the Maha Raja, with Bhaee Ram Sing and other Chiefs, had instantly on receiving the summons from Raja Golab Sing, hastened from Lahore, and that they had arrived at Raja Golab Sing's camp, pitched about a mile beyond our picquets, and that His Highness was ready at once to wait upon me.

I considered it right to abide by the first arrangement, and I directed that it should be intimated to the Maha Raja and the Chiefs, that I would receive His Highness, on the day appointed, at Lulleana, eleven miles in advance, on the road to Lahore.

Yesterday afternoon, the Maha Raja, attended by Raja Golab Sing, Dewan Deena Nath, Fakeer Nooroodeen, Bhaee Ram Sing, and ten or twelve other Chiefs, had an interview with me in my